

A Small Idea, Part 1

How to help poor families and stop terrorism around the world
By Doctor Jonathan Swift

Half of the world makes less than two dollars a day. It's sad to visit poor countries and see women with many children. They cannot get jobs, and must spend all their time finding money to *feed* their four, or five, or six children.

When the babies grow up, they become criminals. Some of them will be angry they're poor, and they will become terrorists. Many countries have too many children. These countries also *owe* billions of dollars to *wealthy* countries.



I have a *solution* to this problem. Today, poor parents must pay to feed their children. I have a way for children to make money for their parents. Poor children will not become criminals and make their country poor. They will not become terrorists who hurt rich countries.

My solution will make poor countries rich. Then the poor countries can pay back the rich countries they owe money to. My solution will also help feed millions of hungry people.

Vocabulary

1. *feed* – verb – To give food, usually to a small child or an animal.
2. *owe* – verb – When you must pay back money you borrowed.
3. *wealthy* – adjective or noun – Rich, or rich people. “He's wealthy.” “The wealthy are different: They have more money.”
4. *solution* – noun – An answer to a problem. “The solution was to get a new job.”

Questions

1. What are the problem Doctor Swift is writing about?

2. What do you think Doctor Swift's solution is?

A Small Idea, Part 2

I have my own idea, which I hope everyone will think is a good one. A wealthy friend tells me that a one year old child is a delicious and healthy food. You can cook them or boil them. They can make a good steak or soup. A one year old can make enough food for two or three big meals. Wealthy people or politicians would pay at least \$100 for a one year old baby. They have taken so much from poor countries, they will be happy to take a little more.

This is a good idea for many reasons. Poor parents will have money for food and medicine. They can pay more taxes, so their government can pay the money it owes to rich countries. The wealthy will have a new, delicious dinner. A poor husband will take care of his wife when she is pregnant, because he can sell their baby for a lot of money.

This is the perfect solution to poverty around the world. No one can say they have a better solution. Don't talk to me about giving more money to people in poor countries. Don't say poor countries shouldn't owe rich countries any money. Don't talk about other solutions if they won't happen. I tried to think of different solutions, but none of them would work.

My idea can work. It can help poor people. I have no children, so it isn't to help me.

Questions

1. What's Doctor Swift's idea to help poor people? Why does he think it's a good idea?
2. Do you think this is a good idea?
3. Do you think some countries have too many children? Too many poor people?
4. What is a better way to help poor people and poor countries?
5. Why do you think the writer wrote this story? What kind of person is Doctor Swift?